REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the Amendment and reconsideration of the claims. Claim 1 has been amended to a method "consisting essentially of" administering a therapeutically effective amount of pyridoxal-5'-phosphate. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found throughout the specification, including at page 52, lines 15-19. Support for new claims 7-11 can be found throughout the specification, including at page 21, line 10 to page 22, line 7; at page 22, lines 24-30; at page 23, line 28 to page 24, line 8; and at page 24, lines 16-23. No new matter has been added by the amendments and new claims. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC § 103.

Rejection under 35 USC § 103(a)

The Examiner maintaincd the rejection of claims 1 and 5-6 as allegedly being unpatentable over Skochii et al. Specifically, the Examiner states that the open language of claim 1 allows for the administration of any number of additional, active agents in a method of treating ischemic stroke. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite "consisting essentially of" in place of "comprising". In addition, Applicants have removed other limitations from Claim 1 which had been added throughout the prosecution, but are no longer necessary in view of the instant amendment. Applicants respectfully assert that the instant amendment obviates the Examiner's comments because the term "consisting essentially of" is used to "to permit inclusion of components not listed in the claim, provided that they do not materially affect the basic and novel properties of the invention." See *A K Steel Corp., v. Sollac*, 344 F.3d 1234 (Fed. Cir. 2003). In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC § 103(a).

Summary

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of

this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 27, 2006

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